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Patent Application Number: 10/691,174  
Attorney Docket Number: A3078Q-US-NP

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method to reduce ~~the a~~ total inter-document zone (IDZ)-region in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, comprising:

a)-shifting ~~said~~ individual inter-document zones in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, in accordance with asymmetric timing of start and stop times of processes occurring within the individual inter-document zone that must occur during this time;

b)-shifting individual images in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, forward to a position outside of ~~their a~~ normally synchronized position of the image, in multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass systems where ~~more severe constraints for IDZ exist are for the beginning vs end of transfer, e.g., where the transfer start requires a larger time than transfer stop~~;

c)-~~using~~ varying an arrangement of similarly asymmetric inter-document-IDZ zones and ~~varying their arrangement~~ to precess each successive document; and

d)-determining ~~the a~~ a minimum inter-document zone in accordance with an inter-document zone requirement associated with a-IDZ necessary given the need for larger IDZ for transfer start or other specific IDZ process and a requirement-the need to provide synchronous images on successive passes within each document.

2. (Currently Amended) TheA method as in claim 1, further comprising placing where the placement of short inter-document zones IDZ's in sequence at locations occurring after each transfer.

3. (Currently Amended) TheA method as in claim 1 wherein a next image precesses forward ~~but not~~ in non-synchronicity with the previous image.

4. (New) The method as in claim 1 wherein individual images, in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, are shifted forward to a position outside of a normally synchronized position of the image when a transfer start requires a larger time than transfer stop.

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5. (New) The method as in claim 1 wherein individual images, in a multi-pitch intermediate multi-pass system, are shifted forward to a position outside of a normally synchronized position of the image when more severe constraints for an inter-document zone exists for a beginning of a transfer versus an end of a transfer.